NEWS

From the County of San Bernardino Josie Gonzales Fifth District

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JGFDS-PR-259 CHAIR MOVES FORWARD UNDER PROPOSED REFORMS FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT LISHA SMITH AT (909) 387-4565

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE CHAIR GONZALES' OFFICE MOVES FORWARD WITH REFORMS

SAN BERNARDINO – One week after announcing her reform proposals, San Bernardino County Chair Josie Gonzales is restructuring her office and realigning her budget in anticipation of the elimination of board discretionary funds. The immediate result is a one-third reduction of her staff effective the 2011-2012 fiscal year.

"Doing the right thing by instituting the necessary reforms to align our offices with standard county practices and transforming ourselves to more ethical, accountable levels of government requires us to make difficult, uncomfortable decisions," said Gonzales, who represents the residents of the county's 5th District.

"My office will lose three good, hard working professionals. Yes, it is hard; however, I must make the adjustments to operate within my district budget. I ask residents to be patient as my staff and I work through this transition to find new, innovative ways to provide the caliber of service my constituents expect and deserve from us," said Gonzales.

During the May 17th Board of Supervisors meeting Chair Gonzales proposed the following reform policies to:

- Amend the current Board Discretionary Fund policy disallowing the use of these one-time monies for ongoing personnel costs as the Grand Jury recommended in its 2009-2010 Final Report, as well as prohibit the use of these taxpayer dollars for sponsorships that promote and draw public recognition of county elected officials.
- Eliminate Board Discretionary Funds from the 2011-2012 Board of Supervisors' budget, saving the county more than \$2 million;

- Prohibit Supervisors' staff from receiving financial compensation for working on a county elected official's campaign or for a political action committee associated with a county elected official; and
- Standardize employment contracts for Board staff, tying the individual's compensation and benefits to the position and the merits of the employee, as well as requiring work performance evaluations for all Board employees.

Following her remarks the Board agreed to hold a workshop to further discuss the proposals. The date of the workshop is not yet set.

"These initial proposals just scratch the surface," said Gonzales. "There is more to come."

The Fifth District includes the unincorporated areas of Bloomington, Muscoy, North Norton, El Rancho Verde, and Arrowhead Farms, the City of Rialto, major portions of the cities of Colton and San Bernardino, and the eastern portion of the City of Fontana.